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Plots against Castro revealed

WASHINGTON (AP) — There were both plots and attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro by the Central Intelligence Agency over the span of three presidencies, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence committee said Sunday.

Appearing on ABC's "Issues and Answers," Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, said the plots and actual attempts on Castro stretched from the administration of Dwight Eisenhower through that of Lyndon B. Johnson, including President John F. Kennedy. But Church said his committee has no hard evidence that the three presidents were aware of the attempts.

Earlier, CIA Director William E. Colby said that when Rep. Otis Pike, D-N.Y., challenged the agency to cite one time it had warned the nation of possible attack, he had forgotten the Cuban Missile crisis.

Colby, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," repeated his disagreement with the statement by Pike last week that the intelligence community would not be able to warn the nation of impending attack because the information would not get passed through the upper levels.

That is the reason the CIA was created, Colby said, to coordinate the information collected by various agencies and to fit together the pieces of the puzzle.

Pike, who heads the House intelligence committee, had noted that the CIA erred in its prediction there would be no Middle East war in 1973.

Colby responded that the agency did make a mistake in that case, but noted that the CIA doesn't operate a crystal ball.

Colby called for responsibility in the investigations of the CIA, saying that there must be a decision "between sensation and safety, between publicity and protection."

Asked about covert operations on his broadcast appearance, Colby said the agency is in compliance with the law passed last year requiring that actions beyond intelligence gathering be approved by the president and reported to six congressional committees.

Colby was also asked about reports of previous agency plans to assassinate foreign leaders but he declined to discuss this beyond saying that he had turned down such proposals and had issued a directive that such practices would not be supported or condoned.

He praised the Senate panel investigating his agency for its security with classified material and said a compromise had been reached with the House committee on similar items. There may be some individual leaks, however, he said.